

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 ICA-11 /088 W  
-----009403 031305Z /47

R 031015Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2490  
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 3410

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR, NP, KN, KS  
SUBJECT: PRINCE GYANENDRA TO VISIT NORTH KOREA; VISIT TO SOUTH  
KOREA POSTPONED

1. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS FROM BOTH GON FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES  
AND SOUTH KOREAN CHARGE THAT LONG DISCUSSED PLANS FOR OFFICIAL  
VISIT TO NORTH KOREA BY KING'S OLDEST BROTHER, PRINCE  
GYANENDRA, ARE FINALLY FIRING UP. GYANENDRA, ACCOMPANIED AMONG  
OTHERS BY FOREIGN MINISTER ARYAL, WILL DEPART KATHMANDU O/A  
JULY 15 AND PROCEED VIA COMMERCIAL AIR THRU RANGOON TO PYONGYANG  
ARRIVING O/A JULY 18. HE WILL STAY FOUR OR FIVE DAYS IN NORTH  
KOREA, RETURNING TO KATHMANDU VIA SAME ROUTE.

2. WHILE VISIT TO NORTH KOREA NOW APPEARS SET, SIMILAR VISIT  
TO SEOUL HAS RUN INTO DIFFICULTIES AND WILL BE POSTPONED UNTIL  
AS YET UNSPECIFIED DATE. AS RECENTLY AS JUNE 28 ROK EMBASSY  
HERE EXPECTED TWO VISITS TO TAKE PLACE IN SEQUENCE, FIRST TO  
NORTH AND THEN TO SOUTH. ONLY QUESTION WAS HOW TRAVEL FROM ONE  
TO THE OTHER WOULD TAKE PLACE. SEOUL HAD SUGGESTED OVERLAND  
VIA PANMUNJAM, BUT NORTH HAD REJECTED THAT PROPOSAL. THUS  
ROK EMBASSY WAS EXPECTING GYANENDRA TO EXIT NORTH KOREA TO  
THIRD COUNTRY AND THEN TURN AROUND AND FLY TO SEOUL.

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3. ON JUNE 30, HOWEVER, ROK CHARGE KIM WAS INFORMED BY  
FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT GON FOUND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO FIT TWO  
VISITS IN TOGETHER IN AVAILABLE TIME. SPECIFICALLY, VISITS  
HAD TO TAKE PLACE BETWEEN JULY 15 AND END OF MONTH. BUT  
WITH NEED TO RETURN FROM PYONGYANG ALL THE WAY TO RANGOON,  
THEN RETURN TO SEOUL, AND FINALLY COME BACK TO KATHMANDU

THERE WAS SIMPLY NOT ENOUGH TIME TO FIT VISIT TO SOUTH IN AFTER THAT TO NORTH. KIM IMMEDIATELY REQUESTED CALL ON FOREIGN SECRETARY WHO REITERATED LOGISTICAL DIFFICULTIES AND ASSURED CHARGE THAT NO POLITICAL FACTORS INVOLVED. KIM TOLD EMBOFF HE WAS CONVINCED OF SINCERITY OF GON EXPLANATION AND HAD SO INFORMED SEOUL. CHARGE STATED THAT APPARENTLY HIS JUST DEPARTED AMBASSADOR HAD MENTIONED POSSIBILITY OF SEPTEMBER VISIT AND PERHAPS THAT WOULD BE NEW TIME FRAME.

4. COMMENT: ROK CHARGE WAS CLEARLY UNCOMFORTABLE WITH MESSAGE THAT HE HAD BEEN FORCED TO PASS TO HIS GOVERNMENT, BUT AS NOTED, APPEARS TO BELIEVE POSTPONEMENT IS FOR REASONS STATED. FRANKLY WE ARE NOT SO SURE. IT IS TRUE THAT NORTH KOREAN INVITATION DEFINITELY PRECEDED THAT OF ROK AND WE HAVE OTHER INDICATIONS OF TIMING CONSTRAINTS. BUT WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT GON HEARD QUITE STRONGLY FROM DPRK OF ITS UNHAPPINESS WITH PLANS TO VISITS BACK TO BACK. SINCE PURPOSE OF THESE VISITS FOR GON IS TO CREATE GOOD WILL, NOT UNHAPPINESS, THIS ATTITUDE PUT GOVERNMENT HERE ON SPOT. DISCOVERY OF TIMING PROBLEM MAY HAVE BEEN CONVENIENT WAY OF PLACATING NORTH KOREANS WITHOUT CREATING LIKE PROBLEMS IN SOUTH.

5. FROM STANDPOINT OF LIKELY IMPACT OF VISITS ON GON POLICY, WE SEE LITTLE CONSEQUENCE IN POSTPONEMENT OF VISIT TO SEOUL. IT IS TRUE THAT PRESENT SCHEDULE WILL SEE FONMIN CONFIDENTIAL

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ARYAL GOING ALMOST DIRECTLY FROM PYONGYANG TO BELGRADE FOR NON-ALIGNED MINISTERIAL, CLEARLY NOT IDEAL TIMING FROM ROK POINT OF VIEW. BUT NEPAL'S ROLE IN BELGRADE IS PRE-ORDAINED IN ANY CASE TO BE ONE OF STAYING VERY MUCH IN BACKGROUND, JOINING MODERATE VOICES TO EXTENT THEY ARE MUSTERED, IN SHORT, IT PROBABLY MAKES LITTLE DIFFERENCE WHO GETS TO ARYAL LAST. END COMMENT.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** VISITS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**TAGS:** PEPR, NP, KN, KS, (GYANENDRA, PRINCE)  
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